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Cover photo by
Tony Duran

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Boston Ex-Prosecutor Ralph Boyd Wins Justice Dept. Civil Rights Post



Ralph F. Boyd Jr.

For the post of assistant attorney general for civil rights, former Boston prosecutor Ralph F. Boyd Jr. was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate without as much as a dissenting vote.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Boyd's nomination on a voice vote, and the full Senate confirmed him by unanimous consent.

While serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in Massachusetts from 1991 to 1997, Boyd received the attorney general's special achievement award for meritorious acts and services.

His smooth confirmation for the civil rights post came as a surprise to leaders of both parties.

Said Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft of Boyd's swift approval by the Senate, "Under his leadership, the civil rights division will be guided by the principle that no one should feel outside the prosecution of the law."

A partner in the Boston law firm Goodwin Procter & Hoar at the time of his nomination, Boyd, 44, is a native of Schenectady, NY, where his father founded the local NAACP chapter. He is a graduate of Haverford College and Harvard Law School.

Boyd and his wife, Angela, have five children.



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Debate Erupts Over Whether Colin Powell Will Lead U.S. Team At UN Conference On Racism

*Colin Powell**Hugh B. Price**Kweisi Mfume**John Conyers*

A national debate suddenly has erupted over whether Secretary of State Colin Powell should lead the U.S. delegation to the August UN meeting on global racism.

At their annual conferences both the NAACP led by Kweisi Mfume and the National Urban League headed by Hugh B. Price have urged President Bush to send his highest-ranking Black Cabinet member to the conference in South Africa.

As the Urban League conference opened in Washington with President Bush listed to speak at one of the sessions, President Hugh B. Price called on his administration to send a Powell-led delegation to the sessions.

Price said that the U.S. should not dodge debate over whether the U.S.

owes reparations because of slavery.

Price drew applause from more than 2,000 delegates at the Urban League's opening session.

Recently a Bush aide said that the current White House administration would not send representatives to the United Nations conference if organizations insist on bringing up slavery reparations.

At the New Orleans conference, the NAACP passed an emergency resolution calling for Powell to lead the group to South Africa.

Among other supporters of the appearance at the UN confab is Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), who has argued for reparations legislation. "It would be particularly disappointing if the president pulls out of the conference," said Conyers.

State Of Virginia Is First To Test New Race-Based Redistricting Plans

All eyes are on the state of Virginia due to a redrawn congressional map that has set off an intense dispute over Black voting strength that is expected to influence how other states, espe-

*Rep. Bobby Scott*

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cially those in the South, handle race during redistricting. Virginia Democrats say the GOP, which won control of the state in the 1990s, "packed" minority voters into a Black district to make adjoining districts Whiter and more Republican, thereby violating federal law protecting Black voting rights.

The reapportionment plan recently signed by Gov. Jim Gilmore must now go to the Justice Department. Redistricting plans in nine Southern and Southwestern states and parts of seven others are subject to Justice Department approval because of their history of discrimination.

"This is the first congressional redistricting plan that really gets into the teeth of the Voting Rights Act," said Tim Storey, who specializes in redistricting for the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver. "Virginia is so early out of the gate on this that there's not yet enough of a precedent to guide partisans on either

side, so all the other states will watch this very carefully. It's the first test of the 2001 round of redistricting."

Virginia and New Jersey are the only states that hold legislative and gubernatorial elections this fall, so they are the first to wade into the issue of race-based redistricting. There are no congressional elections until next year.

The Justice Department in Virginia must determine whether the racial makeup of the 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts violates the 1965 Voting Rights Act by diluting Black political clout.

Under the GOP plan, the 3rd District would retain a Black majority of about 57 percent. Democrat Robert C. "Bobby" Scott currently holds the seat as the only Black member of Virginia's congressional delegation.

"It appears the 4th was designed in such a way that it virtually eliminates the opportunity for minority voters to elect the candidate of their choice," said Scott.



William G. Sinkford

Correction: In the July 9, 2001 issue, the name of the Unitarian-Universalist Association's first Black president Rev. William G. Sinkford was misspelled. The new leader of the 225,000-member, predominantly White religious denomination was ordained in 1995.



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John Petrovic

■ **TRUMAN GIBSON SALUTED:** Noted Chicago lawyer Truman K. Gibson Jr., 89, who was an advisor to Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, recalls how he worked diligently behind the scenes to help end segregation in the armed forces more than 50 years ago under the Truman administration, during the recent Presidential Advisors Lecture Series at the Truman Presidential Museum & Library in Independence, MO. Gibson's recent lecture was held on the 53rd anniversary of President Truman's historic order in 1948 that ended segregation in the U.S. military. Below, Gibson is congratulated on his outstanding contributions to America by noted Chicago Sun-Times political columnist Steve Neal, (l) who has written about Gibson's work during the Truman administration and also participated in the lecture series, and Scott Roley, acting director, Truman Presidential Museum & Library.



John Petrovic

TICKER TAPE

by Simeon Booker, Washington Bureau Chief

Confidential: For her campaign to keep Caribbean bananas from being locked out of the world market by European and U.S. interests, California Congresswoman Rep. **Maxine Waters** was honored at a Capitol Hill breakfast tribute. Because of her struggle, she was called one of the architects of the 2001 U.S./European agreement on a new banana trade accord...The next African-African-American summit is slated to be held November 26-30 in Abuja, Nigeria, with **Hope Sullivan**, the daughter of founder **Dr. Leon Sullivan**, at the helm...When the Congressional Black Caucus celebrates its 30th anniversary in September in the nation's capital, Rusty Jackson Productions, a Black firm, will coordinate the events. Since 1971, the Caucus has grown from 13 to 38 members....During the demolishing of an old women's gym on the Howard Uni-

versity campus, workers discovered a 76-year-old time capsule. A conservator is now examining the printed documents...President **George W. Bush** named Hampton University President **William R. Harvey** to the 18-member Fannie Mae board of directors...Scores of Blacks attended the funeral of **Katharine Graham**, the publisher of the Washington Post newspaper, who was one of the nation's equal opportunity pacesetters during her illustrious career... Philadelphia 76ers star center **Dikembe Mutombo** is building a hospital in the Congo's capital city of Kinshasa to provide basic health needs for poor Africans. He has asked the U.S. for funds to match his outlay...Next U.S. Director of the African Development Fund is **Cynthia Shepard Perry**, the former United States ambassador to Burundi and Sierra Leone.

National Headliners

Nigerian naval captain **Anthony Am Isa** earned special awards while attending the National Defense University in Washington...Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary **Alphonso Jackson** spoke at the recent U.S. Conference of Mayors confab in Cleveland complaining of the low percentage

of Black homeowners—less than 50 percent compared to the nation's average of 63 percent...Newest best-seller—*The BAP Handbook*, dubbed the official guide of Black American Princesses... **Norma L. Lindsay** was named the chief liquor inspector for Maryland's Prince George's County to enforce the state's alcoholic beverage control law for 600 licensees.



Rep. Maxine Waters



Dikembe Mutombo



▲ Yumecia "Meci" Currie plays with Blondie, her golden retriever at her home in Durham, NC. The girl decided to use her \$1,000 Disney World vacation money to pay veterinarians to treat her sick dog, who had Parvo disease.

Nine-Year-Old Is Rewarded For Sacrificing Her Vacation Money To Save Pet

It was love at first sight when nine-year-old Yumecia "Meci" Currie met Blondie, a puppy golden retriever and the only canine in a cat room at the Durham, NC, Orange County Animal Shelter.

The third-grader and her grandmother, Wanda, made plans to adopt the puppy from the shelter, and although the puppy looked healthy, they were surprised a few days later when a shelter worker called to say the puppy had the parvo virus, a deadly, contagious and expensive-to-treat disease.

So, the day before they had planned to adopt Blondie, the puppy went instead to Cole Park Veterinary Clinic to begin treatment. But since the clinic closed on the weekend, they had to take Blondie to the Pets emergency

clinic in Durham so treatment could continue. But before the treatment Currie said she knew Meci had to make a pivotal decision between Blondie's desperately needed care and the money she had saved for her long awaited trip to Disney World. Currie said she let Meci make the decision. But Meci didn't hesitate, Currie revealed.

"Meci said to me: 'We can always go to Disney World. We can save money again,'" Currie said. "Meci is good-hearted. It showed me that much more how goodhearted she is.

They paid \$400 up-front for the two-day care. Blondie's treatment added up to about \$1,000.

Meci told a little girl at church about it, and the little girl said there was no way she would have kept the

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CHILDREN

dog. She would have gone to Disney World," Currie said.

The news of Meci's selfless act spread around the community and an anonymous donor gave the shelter \$1,000 so that Meci could go on her trip to Disney World anyway. And Mid-

way airlines gave Meci and Currie free flights to Orlando, FL, while Walt Disney World has given them each two-day passes to their theme parks.

Now Meci looks forward to fun with Blondie and at Walt Disney World: "I just like to play and play," Meci said.

MR. & MRS.



▲ **A MALL MARRIAGE:** Rose Lacy and Greg Hodge kiss after recently being married at the Montgomery Mall in North Wales, PA. Lacy and Hodge, both maintenance employees at the mall, met and fell in love while working together three years ago. Mall management invited the couple to marry at their place of employment and over 50 merchants contributed everything from tuxedos to food towards the wedding celebration.

HEALTH

Report Finds World Population More Overweight; U.S. Leading The Way

The world is getting bigger. A study recently found that all over the globe people have become more overweight, with the United States

in the forefront of those people who are becoming obese.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that between



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1995 and 2000 the population of obese people rose from 200 million to 300 million.

Defined as roughly 30 pounds overweight for the average 5-foot 4-inch woman and 40 pounds for the average 5-foot 9-inch man, obesity nearly doubled in the last two decades and now includes 27 percent of the population. Overweight Americans surpassed 60 percent of the country's population.

Extremely obese people, those who are 65 pounds overweight or more, increased to more than 5 percent of the population.

Experts said obesity grows more common in developing countries as they shift from rural to urban economies and the nature of work

becomes less physical. Fast food and processed food also played a role, because more people moved from home cooking with fresh ingredients.

Obesity, it was reported, contributes to 300,000 deaths a year. And a recent RAND think tank study declared obesity is as bad or worse for your health than smoking, problem drinking or living in poverty.

Nearly 80 percent of obese adults are reported to suffer from high blood pressure, diabetes, high blood cholesterol, coronary heart disease, gallbladder disease or osteoarthritis, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



in the SPOTLIGHT



Marc Baptiste

Syleena Johnson, because *Chapter 1* promises to be the first installment of many good tunes to come.

THE LOWDOWN: A native of the Chicago suburb Harvey, Johnson's dad is blues and R&B musician Syl Johnson; mom is Brenda Thompson, the nation's first Black female police commissioner. Johnson just celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary with hubby Marcus Betts, an Illinois State University student.

HER SOUND: "R&B to the second power, with the second power being on the blues," Johnson says.

WHY SHE'S THE BOMB: *Chapter 1* debuted at No. 1 on new artist charts. Johnson is the opening act

Syleena Johnson Makes Music Debut With Tough-Love Songs

Syleena Johnson deserves some respect. At 24, this rising singer and songwriter's voice possesses a maturity that belies her age, and the songs on her debut album, *Chapter 1: Love, Pain & Forgiveness*, reflect a wisdom gleaned from her painful experiences with love.

Her single, *I Am Your Woman*, written and produced by R. Kelly, is becoming the Sister anthem of the summer, and her celebrity is getting hotter as the mercury rises. So keep your eyes and ears on

for R. Kelly's summer tour, and her single, *Hit On Me*, about domestic violence, resulted in a partnership with the National Domestic Violence Hotline that will have her touring women's shelters.

MESSAGE IN HER SONGS: "I didn't take those fears and angers and turn them into bitterness," she says. "I turned them into something that I can share with the rest of the world and let them know that regardless of what you're going through, it's going to be OK and this is how I did it. You can too."

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Merrill Lynch Names E. Stanley O'Neal Its First Black President And COO

The brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch recently promoted E. Stanley O'Neal to president and chief operating officer, which puts him in line to become the company's first Black chief executive.

The current CEO, David Komansky, said O'Neal beat out three other candidates for the job. O'Neal's elevation to COO puts him in line to succeed Komansky, 62, when he retires in 2004.

If O'Neal does succeed Komansky, he would become only the third Black executive to lead a major U.S. financial services firm, after Franklin Raines, CEO of mortgage financing company Fannie Mae, and Kenneth Chenault, president and chief operating officer of American Express Co.

In his new post, O'Neal steps into a job that has been vacant at Merrill Lynch since 1999.

"In every position he has held at Merrill Lynch he has shown a passion for excellence and market leadership," said Komansky. "...Through his broad experience across the many facets of our business, Stan O'Neal has demonstrated keen strategic vision and a great ability to inspire and lead people."

O'Neal, 49, will continue in his current position as head of the U.S. Private Client Group (USPC), the com-



E. Stanley O'Neal

pany's American brokerage division, until a replacement is found.

USPC includes 14,200 Financial Consultants and more than 700 branch offices. It serves individuals, small businesses and employee benefit plans by using a planning-based approach to provide asset, liability and transition manage-

ment services.

O'Neal joined Merrill Lynch's Investment Banking group in 1986, with client responsibilities in a variety of areas, including high yield, project finance and equity private placement.

He headed the Capital Markets Group, working with clients worldwide on debt and equity new issues, and the Investor Strategies Group, which provides specialized portfolio consulting and investment advisory services to institutional clients.

Born in 1951, O'Neal was the oldest of four children growing up in rural Alabama in a modest house built by his father. When the family fell on hard times, his father moved the family to Atlanta and got a job at a General Motors assembly plant.

O'Neal earned a bachelor's degree in industrial administration from Kettering University (formerly known as General Motors Institute) in 1974, and his MBA from Harvard University in 1978.

This Week In Black History



August 7, 1948—

◀ **Alice Coachman**, athlete, became the first Black woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal during the Summer Olympic Games in London on this day. Coachman set a new Olympic high jump record for women when she jumped 5 feet, 6¼ inches. She was the only American woman to win a track event that year. Born in Albany, GA, she trained for sprint events in fields and dirt roads and jumped barefoot at a neighborhood playground because Blacks could not participate in organized athletic activities. In 1939, at the age of 16, she received a scholarship to attend Tuskegee Preparatory School. After her Olympic win, she gave up competition and became a coach and recreation director. She was later inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. In 1996, she was honored at the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta, among 100 famous U.S. athletes. Now retired, Coachman lives with her husband in Tuskegee, AL.

August 10, 1989—

▼ **Colin L. Powell** was nominated by President George Bush to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on this day. He became the first Black to head the Joint Chiefs and at 52, the youngest to serve in this position. The Joint Chiefs is the highest military advisory panel to the president. He retired from the post in 1993. A native of Harlem, NY, Colin Luther Powell was born April 5, 1937, and graduated from the City College of New York and its ROTC program in 1958 with a degree in geology and Army commission as a second lieutenant. Following a tour of duty in Vietnam, Powell received an MBA degree from George Washington University in 1971. Over his 35-year military career, Powell rose to the rank of four-star general. In 1987, two years before the Joint Chiefs appointment by Bush, Powell was named national security advisor by then-President Ronald Reagan. On January 20, 2001, Colin Powell was confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of State under the George W. Bush administration.



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MADE AMOS
FAMOUS.



WALLY AMOS CREATED A RECIPE SO SPECIAL HIS
COOKIES GOT FAMOUS BY WORD OF MOUTH
ALONE. TRY THE RICH CHOCOLATE AND
HOMEMADE TASTE THAT MADE AMOS FAMOUS!



Experts Tell How To Overcome Sex Addiction



▲ Dr. Joyce Hamilton Berry says that a person can overcome sex addiction by first admitting there is a problem.

Sex is a natural part of life. But when someone's desire for sex becomes uncontrollable to the point that it consumes a large part of his life, then it becomes an addiction.

The good news is that—as with all addictions—there are ways to overcome sex addiction, according to experts.

An addiction usually is symptomatic of an underlying disorder like depression or an anxiety disorder, says Dr. Joyce Hamilton Berry, a clinical psychologist in private practice in Washington, D.C., and Columbia, MD. The addiction, she adds, is an attempt

to relieve the uncomfortable feelings a person is having.

Berry says that in order to overcome a sex addiction, a person must first admit he has a problem controlling the behavior. "With that awareness," she says, "a person must then make a decision to do something about it."

Once a person becomes aware that the behavior is out of control and creating a problem, Berry suggests "finding a mental health specialist or group where [a person] can address these problems. Some 12 step groups can help people control their addictions."

Berry says that part of the treatment is getting a person to become aware of when the desires are aroused. "With an awareness of the changes that occur in the body and psychologically, you can exert more control. One treatment technique could be cognitive, where you can become aware and do things in place of that addiction."



► Judge Leslie Isaiah Gaines says that "God delivered" him from sex addiction.



▲ Rap star-actor LL Cool J and former baseball star Darryl Strawberry both battled sex addiction. LL Cool J, who was a pornography addict, wrote in his autobiography that he "got fed up" and "quit, cold turkey" with his addiction.

Judge Leslie Isaiah Gaines of West Chester, OH, says that he couldn't get enough of women. "I had a four-or-five-woman-a-day habit. I loved women and women loved me like I was an athlete."

Gaines says that when he became a high-priced successful lawyer, he looked at women as "part of a game" for him because most of his life he wanted to be a "lover" and "player." He also said that he bought into the philosophy the true mark of a man was measured by the number of women he had.

"It took me 40 years to recognize that women are queens to be respected and not sex toys to be treated like junk. Respect for womanhood is the beginning of real manhood," he says.

Gaines left the bench of the Hamilton County Municipal Court in Cincinnati to go into the ministry in 1996 to start his own church, Everybody's

Tabernacle. It wasn't until two years ago that "God delivered" him "from a 40-year wilderness of lust addiction," he says.

A year ago Gaines started an outreach ministry, F.L.A.P.P. (Former Lovers Addicts Partyers and Players Anonymous) at his church to assist others with sex addictions.

"In any form of addiction, you must have the will and desire to give something up. What you are addicted to will become distasteful. I didn't view that type of lifestyle as a problem until I wanted to give it up. People who do something too much don't view it as a problem until they want to give it up.

"Addiction is a color-blind, equal-opportunity seducer that has destroyed men from pimps to preachers to presidents," he concludes.

Rapper-actor LL Cool J wrote in his autobiography, *I Make My Own*



▲ *Sex addiction is difficult to define because it is based on a moral interpretation of behavior, says Dr. Herbert Samuels.*

Rules, that he was a pornography addict.

"I was addicted to porn. Aside from it always being in the house, it represented power and escape," he wrote in the book. "Sex, with a healthy helping of pornography thrown in, made me feel I had control of my emotions, feelings. But I really didn't. It was controlling me."

LL says that a sexual experience with a pregnant groupie was the final encounter that helped him realize how out of control he really was. He made the choice to become more sexually responsible, and the first step to doing this was to rid himself of his massive porno collection of tapes and magazines.

"I was illing, juggling all of these ladies and not respecting any of them—or myself. So one day I got fed

up," recalls LL, who says that he "quit, cold turkey" with his obsession.

Former Yankee slugger Darryl Strawberry told "60 Minutes" that he wasn't just battling booze and drugs, but he also was addicted to women.

"Not one, not two, but, you know, women, women, women—and I just couldn't get myself away from it," he once told "60 Minutes." "I was addicted to it. I was addicted to the women. I was addicted to the drinking. I was addicted to the drugs."

What often is described as a sex addict is based on very moralistic terms, believes Dr. Herbert Samuels, a professor at the City University of New York at LaGuardia and a past president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Eastern Region.

"By some definition, almost anybody can be a sex addict, depending on whose definition you use," he explains. "The theory of being a sex addict is based on a moral interpretation of behavior. The problem I have is, Who decides what is too much? That is a moral judgement and not a scientific judgement."

He says that too many people self-diagnose themselves as "sex addicts," instead of dealing with certain thoughts and behaviors that are troubling and make them out of control.

Samuels notes, "Rather than deal with the causes, they just say, 'I'm a sex addict and I'll be in recovery for the rest of my life.' Some people get addicted to going to the groups. They go to meetings and talk about the very thing they want to get away from. For some it's a great place to pick up peo-



▲ Sex educator-counselor Dr. Twinet Parmer says one must explore all relative issues that might impact a sex addiction.

ple and go to find a date and not control their own behavior.”

Education is an important factor in overcoming sex addiction, says sex educator-counselor Dr. Twinet Parmer, an associate professor of counseling at Central Michigan University.

“A person must explore all relative issues that may impact this,” she says. “There must be some type of behavior modification...You have to look at the arousal pattern. There is a cycle that people go into and things that will trigger this.”

She continues, “You must teach these individuals social skills. How to communicate, and how to interact, how to control stress. Some anger may be present. Someone might have isolated them as a child and they must be taught how to deal with these feelings.”

Florida Teen Gets 28 Years For Killing Teacher

LAW & JUSTICE

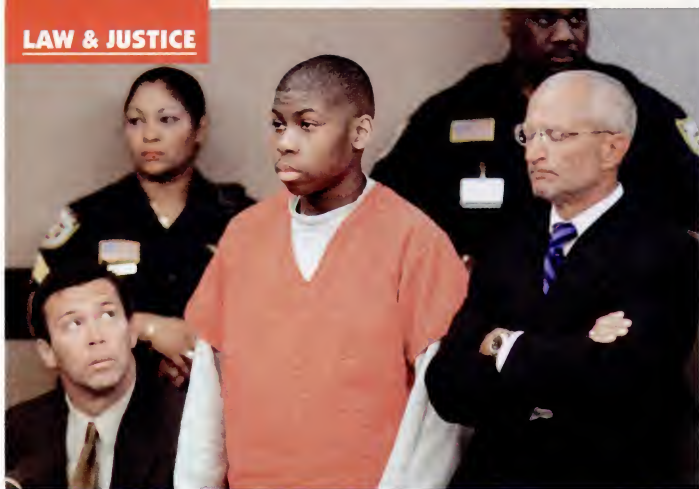


A 14-year-old Florida boy who shot to death his favorite teacher in a rage on the last day of school, was recently sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Nathaniel Brazill, who was tried as an adult, had faced at least a 25-year minimum sentence and up to life in prison for killing Barry Grunow at Lake Worth Middle School in Lake Worth, FL, last year.

Brazill, wearing a bright red jumpsuit and shackles, showed little emo-

◀ Brazill takes the stand during a sentencing hearing. He apologized for shooting his teacher. “Words cannot really explain how sorry I am, but they’re all I have,” he said.



▲ Nathaniel Brazill, 14, is flanked by his attorneys, Lance Richard (l) and Robert Udell, listen as Circuit Court Judge Richard Wennet announces his sentence at the Palm Beach County Circuit Court in West Palm Beach, FL. Brazill was sentenced to 28 years in prison for killing his school teacher.

tion as Circuit Judge Richard Wennet rendered his decision.

The 28-year sentence is without the possibility of parole or time off for good behavior.

In issuing the sentence, Judge Wennet had to decide whether the teen would be a danger to society or could be rehabilitated. But he made no public comment on his reasoning for imposing the 28-year sentence.

The judge ordered the teen to earn his high school diploma, take an anger management course and spend two years in a form of house arrest after completing his sentence. He also will serve five years' probation.

The teen's lawyer, Robert Udell, said the family will appeal and will not seek clemency until the appeals process was completed.

"I can tell you he's pleased. Nathaniel just wanted to know if there is a light at the end of the tunnel," Udell said. The defense had sought the minimum 25-year term. Brazill's family had rejected a plea deal of 25 years offered by prosecutors before the trial.

Brazill was tried as an adult and convicted earlier this year of second-degree murder for killing the 35-year-old English teacher he called a "great man and a great teacher." (JET, June 4).

Brazill had returned to school after being suspended by a counselor earlier that day for throwing water balloons. He shot Grunow after the teacher refused to let the seventh-grader talk to two girls in his class.

At a daylong sentencing hearing,

Brazill apologized for the first time, telling the judge: "Words cannot really explain how sorry I am, but they're all I have."

Brazill insisted, as he did during his trial, that he didn't mean to hurt his teacher.

"As I look back on that day I wish it had not happened and that I could bring Mr. Grunow back," he said, reading from a statement.

"I would like to say to everyone that I am very, very sorry. And to Mr. Grunow's family, I am sorry."

Brazill said, "If I had thought about what I was doing, none of this would have happened...Regardless of what anyone thinks, I never intended to harm Mr. Grunow."

The teen called Grunow a "great man and a great teacher....I've been thinking about Mrs. Grunow and how lonely she is."

Brazill's mother, Polly Powell, said, "I know (the judge) searched himself... But still for my son, I have to fight on. I know my son will be coming home some day."

Brazill's father, Nathaniel Brazill Sr., said, "The judge pretty much did what he had to do....Today we start the healing process."

During the trial, Grunow's widow, Pam, told the judge that she didn't have a sentencing recommendation but described her husband as a wonderful father with many friends and students who cared greatly for him.

▼ *Brazill's mother, Polly Powell, addresses the media at the Palm Beach County (FL) Circuit Court as Brazill's father, Nathaniel Brazill Sr. (2nd, r), and the Rev. Thomas Masters (r) look on following the sentencing of her son, Nathaniel.*





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RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Creative Salad

Black-eyed peas, rice, ham and a mixture of vegetables make a creative salad that the whole family will enjoy.

Hopping John Salad With Ham is quick and easy to make.



Hopping John Salad With Ham

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 cup diced cooked ham (you may substitute turkey ham) | 4 green onions, thinly sliced |
| 2 16-ounce cans black-eyed peas, drained | 1 small carrot, thinly sliced |
| 1 6-ounce package long grain and wild rice, cooked according to package directions | 1 cup sliced mushrooms |
| 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper | 1/4 cup chopped parsley |
| 1/2 cup diced celery | 3/4 cup balsamic vinegar salad dressing |
| | 1/4 cup honey |
| | Salt and pepper to taste |

Combine the ham, peas, rice, red bell pepper, celery, green onions, carrots, mushrooms and parsley in large bowl. Combine vinegar and honey in small bowl. Pour the dressing over the ham mixture and toss gently to coat well. Season with salt and pepper. Serve on lettuce leaves.



Yields 6 servings



SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **The One For Me:** Gwendolyn I. Long became the wife of Jerome C. Harris, Jr. during a ceremony in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The bride is chief of staff to the mayor of Trenton, NJ. She is a doctoral candidate at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick. The bridegroom is the director of the Institute of Urban and Public Policy at Rowan University. The newlyweds will reside in Trenton.



▲ **Hearts Filled With Joy:** Demetrius McCormick joined in holy matrimony with Stacie Selmon at Christian Liberty Baptist Church in Kosciusko, MS. The bride, a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Southern Mississippi, is a graduate of Mississippi State University. The groom is a graduate of Tuskegee University. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in polymer science at the University of Southern Mississippi.



◀ **Leaning On Love:** Welmon Barriere, Jr. pledged his eternal love to the former Denise Perkins at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Atlanta. The bride is a graduate of Albany State University. She is a revenue accountant for Cingular Wireless. The groom attended Southern University; he is a Georgia real estate property appraiser. Disney World in Orlando, FL, is where they honeymooned.

*"New job, new home, new life.
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SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **That Glow:** Tomeka Ryan and Carlton Shaw are happy in love after they married at the Savannah Lakes Golf Club Resort and Marina in McCormick, SC. Both are graduates of North Carolina A&T State University. The bride, also a graduate of East Carolina University, is a registered nurse at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. The bridegroom is a quality assurance engineer. They honeymooned in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

▲ **Time To Celebrate:** Dr. Carlos H. Powers and Valerie A. Green united in an elegant rite of marriage ceremony at the Renaissance Houston Hotel in Washington, D.C. The bride is a former stockbroker with UBS/PaineWebber. The groom is a dentist in private practice on Capitol Hill. He also is senior partner of the couple's e-commerce business, Powers & Associates. The loving twosome plan to reside in Washington.



◀ **More Than Six Decades:** Mr. and Mrs. Dee Roberts of Henrietta, TX, commemorated 67 years of marriage with family and friends by attending worship service at Eastside Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, TX. Mrs. Mable Roberts is a homemaker. Her dedicated mate of more than six decades is a retired farmer. The Roberts are the parents of five. They are the grandparents of seven and the great-grandparents of six.

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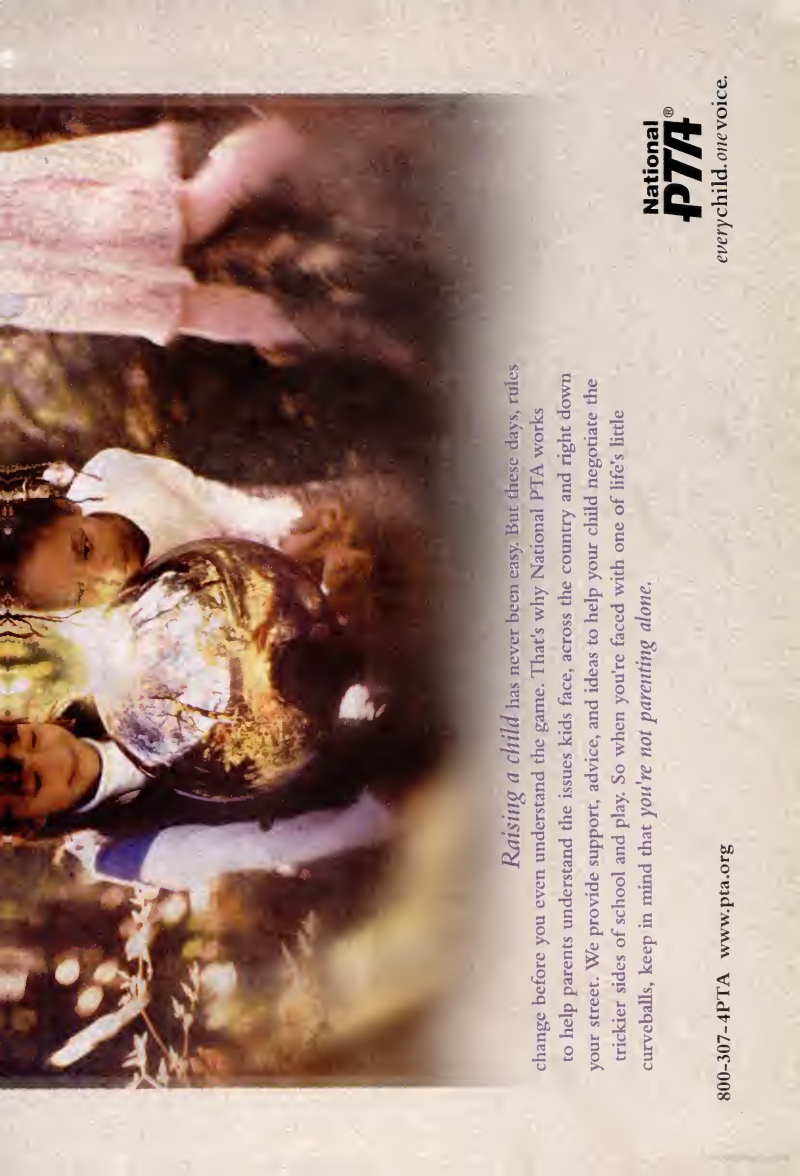
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Jeff Burns, Jr. Promoted To Associate Publisher Of EBONY Magazine



Jeff Burns, Jr.

Jeff Burns, Jr. was recently promoted to the position of Associate Publisher for EBONY Magazine, Johnson Publishing Company's flagship publication with the largest circulation and readership of any African-American publi-

cation in the nation.

Burns was formerly Senior Vice President and Eastern Advertising Director for EBONY.

Now in its 56th year of publication, EBONY continues to maintain its leadership position in the magazine industry. It is read, retained and respected by over 11,000,000 readers and reaches approximately 42% of the African-American consumer market each month.

Burns is a graduate of Howard University where he majored in both marketing and communications. Prior to joining Johnson Publishing Company he was a Media Planner at Benton & Bowles (now DMB&B) one of the largest advertising agencies in the country where he worked on the Procter & Gamble account.

SCLC Head Martin Luther King III Addresses Charges Of Conflict Within The Civil Rights Group



▲ SCLC President Martin Luther King III said he was "very disappointed that our chairman chose to air the issues of internal SCLC workings before the nation."

After news hit the media that Martin Luther King III might lose his post as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) if his job performance did not improve, King recently held a news conference to respond to charges of growing tension between himself and the civil rights organization that his famous father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., co-founded in 1957.

"Whatever SCLC has gone through, every organization has gone through," King said from the group's downtown Atlanta headquarters. "It's generally

not done on the front pages of the newspapers. There were internal issues that we, as a board, have addressed."

King, 43, who has led the SCLC since 1998, reportedly was placed on administrative leave in late June and reinstated a week later. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that SCLC board Chairman Claud Young told King in a letter that he has "consistently been insubordinate and displayed inappropriate obstinate behavior in the carrying out of your duties as president...."

Young also wrote that King had failed to set a clear agenda and had not raised enough money for the non-profit organization during his three-year tenure.

At the press conference, King declined to talk about the specific complaints lodged against him by Young, but did say that a "philosophical divide" exists between him and the chairman.

"I'm very disappointed that our chairman chose to air the issues of internal SCLC workings before the nation," King said, noting that the SCLC board did not vote at any time to suspend him and that his tenure as president is not on the agenda of the group's upcoming convention in Montgomery, AL.

Young said a lack of communication combined with King's frequent stints away from headquarters had worried board members about the focus and future of the SCLC. He said

that all is now well within the organization and that King's job is safe.

While King called recent events an "unfortunate public airing of linen," he said a strategic plan for SCLC is in the works.

Mandela Undergoes Treatment For Prostate Cancer



Nelson Mandela

Former South African president Nelson Mandela recently began treatment for non-life threatening prostate cancer.

The cancer, diagnosed after a biopsy, will be treated over a several-week period at a Johannesburg clinic. Doctors for Mandela stated, "The cancer is not of a high grade and should not decrease Mr. Mandela's life span."

Mandela, 83, will undergo radiation treatment and anti-antigen treatment to help shrink the prostate gland.

Mandela spent 27 years in apartheid prisons before he was released in 1990 to lead South Africa from White minority rule to full democracy in 1994. He served as president from 1994-1999 and was succeeded by Thabo Mbeki.

Since retiring from the presidency in 1999, Mandela has maintained an extremely active schedule.

He was found to have an enlarged prostate in 1985, while still imprisoned in South Africa, and had part of the gland removed.

Lauryn Hill Performs New Somber, Emotional Tunes On MTV



▲ Lauryn Hill delivers a somber set of new tunes during taping of upcoming "Unplugged" music special on MTV.

A spiritual, emotional Lauryn Hill recently took the stage to tape an episode of MTV's "Unplugged" singing of God and freedom with tears streaming down her face during several songs.

Dressed casually with a baseball cap and scarf, she joked to the audience: "I used to get dressed for y'all, but I don't do that no more. It's a new day."

The 26-year-old Grammy winner sang all new songs, some of which don't even have titles yet.

Later, she spoke seriously about her faith and shunning the trappings of fame, and several fans in the audience shed tears with her.

"I'm a mess, but God is dealing with me every day," she said. "That's what all these songs are about: problem, cause and solution."

She started to cry as she sang about the strength God has given her to endure, "What a wonderful, merciful God," she sang.

She told the audience: "I know some of the songs are really heavy. Fantasy is what people want, but reality is what they need. And I'm retired from the fantasy part."

Hill became a major superstar with her Grammy Award-winning 1998 solo debut CD, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, with *Doo Wop (That Thing)*, a remake of the '60s pop classic *Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You*, *Lost Ones* and *Nothing Even Matters*, a duet with D'Angelo. She began her music career with the hit group the Fugees, who also included Wyclef Jean and Prakazael Michel. The group won a huge following with *Killing Me Softly*, a remake of Roberta Flack's '70s classic.

Hill's "Unplugged" appearance is scheduled to air on MTV2 in the late fall and will rerun on MTV afterward.

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■ **CLOSE COUPLE:** Talented actress Countess Vaughn, star of UPN's hit comedy "The Parkers," shares a warm moment with her close friend, Sean, during a party given by UPN at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles.

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**beauty
of the
week**

DAWN SYKES

is a registered nurse
from Richmond, VA.
The 5-foot-11½ mod-
el enjoys working
out and volunteering
in the community.

Photo by
Derrick Smith



Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP

■ **SPARRING ON THE HILL:** Adept at verbal sparring as a member of Congress, Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL) physically takes on fellow congressman Nick Smith (R-MI) to earn his first-degree black belt during the recent congressional Tae Kwon Do Black Belt exam in the Canon Caucus Room.

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■ **MOTION PICTURE SCREENING:** Actor Laurence Fishburne and his fiancée, actress Gina Torres, are joined by director Francis Ford Coppola (l) at Lincoln Center in New York during the screening of *Apocalypse Now Redux*, a new release of Coppola's great Vietnam War epic *Apocalypse Now*, in which Fishburne co-starred.

Athletes Who Have Followed In Their Fathers' Footsteps

There is no better tribute than children who want to be like their fathers and tread in familiar footsteps. The following are athletes who are flourishing in the shadow of their Pops. Even though they are subjected to constant comparisons, these star players have earned their own identities—and are leaving behind footsteps of their own.

Los Angeles Lakers' star guard Kobe Bryant can look to his father, Joe "Jelly Bean" Bryant, for advice on the trials of being a pro athlete. Perhaps Kobe's smooth transition from high school ball to dominating in the NBA and leading the Lakers to back-to-back world championships (the first in 12 years) was the result of Joe Bryant's 16 years experience as an NBA and Italian League player.

When Kobe made the once-controversial decision to bypass college to go straight to the pros, it came as no surprise that his dad was a major supporter. "He's always been there for me," Kobe said in the New York Daily News. "We can talk about anything. I love him to death."

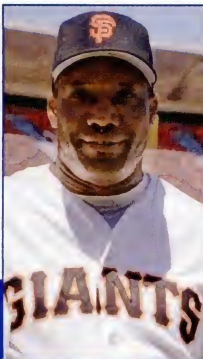
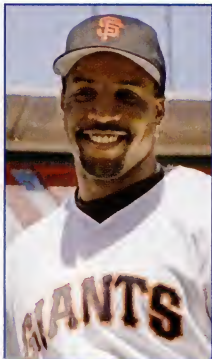
Kobe, who turns 23 on Aug 23, took his dad's advice to learn to be able to play all five positions. Overall this has developed the 6-foot-6 guard to be as versatile as he is.

As if inheriting a family



▲ Kobe Bryant is now a star guard with the Los Angeles Lakers partly because he took the advice of his father Joe Bryant (above) who played pro basketball for 16 years in the NBA and the Italian League.





▲ *San Francisco Giants power hitter Barry Bonds (l) is emulating the career of his dad, ex-Giants outfielder Bobby Bonds.*

business, San Francisco Giants home run slugger Barry Bonds grew up watching his superstar father, Bobby Bonds, and godfather, Willie Mays, play in the Major Leagues.

Bobby, who played for the Giants

in 1968 until 1974, set standards of performance for his eldest son, and sure enough, Barry, 37, lives up to them in displaying his considerable talent. In 1990, Barry joined his father in the remarkable 30 home runs-30 stolen bases club. Barry's accomplishments snowballed from there. In addition to winning numerous Gold Glove Awards and MVP honors, Barry is on pace to break baseball's home run single-season record (70).

Ken Griffey, Jr. followed his dad's baseball lead as well. They've even played for

the same teams too.

Ken Griffey, Sr. started his career as an outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds and spent most of his 18-year playing career with the team even though he retired as a Seattle Mariner.

He's still in the game, however, serving as a coach for the Reds—the very same team on which his talented son now stars.

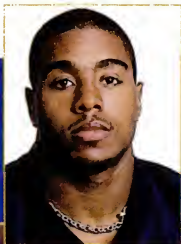
Last season, Ken



▲ *Cincinnati Reds slugger Ken Griffey Jr. (l) grew up watching his father, Ken Griffey Sr., lead the same team.*



■ *Ex-Dallas Cowboys running back and NFL Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett (l) is proud of his son, Anthony Dorsett, who plays defense as a cornerback for the Oakland Raiders.*



Griffey Jr., 31, who won the American League Gold Glove for 10-straight seasons, ended his 11-season career with the Seattle Mariners and was traded to the Reds, his hometown team, where he'll probably retire (last year he signed a nine-year contract).

"I just said [to Seattle], 'I want to go to Cincinnati.' I know the place, I grew up there," Ken Jr. told the *Charleston Gazette*. "I always wanted to wear the same uniform my dad wore."

Oakland Raiders Anthony Dorsett worked hard during his football career partially because of the inspiration he's gotten from his NFL Hall of Fame father, Tony Dorsett. The senior Dorsett, who as an agile running back led the Cowboys to a Super Bowl title in the 1977 season, won the

Heisman Trophy out of the University of Pittsburgh.

Anthony, 27, made a name for himself at the University of Pittsburgh also, wearing his father's No. 33 through most his career. In January of 2000, as a Tennessee Titan, Anthony and his father went into the NFL history books as the first father and son to start a Super Bowl.

Both Dorsetts were blessed with blazing speed, but Anthony uses his as a cornerback on the other side of the ball. "Maybe it would have been nice to have been a running back too in this league to kind of follow in my father's footsteps," Anthony said in the *Sacramento Bee*. "But it wouldn't make a difference because there are always going to be comparisons."

When the NFL's all-time leading rusher, Walter Payton, died two years

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■ *NFL's all-time leading rusher Walter Payton's name still lives on through his son, Jarrett, who as a running back wears the same sweet No. 34 at the University of Miami.*



ago at 45 from liver disease complications, his son, Jarrett, already was making a name for himself as a running back to carry on the name.

An athlete since he could walk, Jarrett, 20, led his high school's soccer squad to third place in Illinois state competition. But by his junior year, he joined the football team, and when he graduated, he was awarded a football scholarship to the University of Miami.

"I hear his voice in my head," Jarrett said about his competitive and caring father in *People Magazine*. "Every day when I go to practice, it's like he's around." Jarrett, who also wears his father's distinguished No. 34, looks this season (his second playing season) to carry on the "Sweetness" attitude.

Pro boxer Jacqui "Sister Smoke" Frazier-Lyde fought her eighth bout in June against Laila Ali and dedicated it to her former world heavy-



weight champion father, "Smokin Joe" Frazier. Frazier-Lyde, a 39-year-old



■ *Former Heavyweight World Champions Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier left trails for their daughters to follow in the ring. Below, Jacqui Frazier-Lyde and Laila Ali duke it out in a June bout.*

mother of three, made her professional boxing debut in February of 2000 and hasn't stopped since. A practicing attorney based in Philadelphia, Frazier-Lyde doesn't feel the pressure of fighting under her father's prestigious name.

"I feel like I'm falling in the tradition of my family," Frazier-Lyde said, whose older brother, Marvis, also enjoyed a stint in boxing.

The undaunted Joe Frazier attended his daughter's June 8 bout. After Frazier-Lyde was outpointed by Ali—her only career loss—in the dual slugfest, Frazier praised his daughter at the postfight press conference. "Jacqui, you certainly have your daddy in you."

Laila Ali, the famed Muhammad Ali's youngest daughter, said her former heavyweight champion father didn't exactly like that she is boxing, but he is proud and supports her. "I'm like the son he never had. In some



small way, I can't help but continue the legacy of Muhammad Ali," Laila, 23, told the Dayton Daily News. "I'm the only one of his (nine) children to follow in his footsteps."

One distinction between the Ali boxers is that "She-Bee-Stinging" Ali says she's more of a fighter than her dad. At 10 undefeated bouts and counting, her goal is to become a champion—like her dad. Right now, fighting under her father's name "just makes me work harder."



◀ **AGENT OF THE YEAR:** Veteran sports agent C. Lamont Smith (r), who negotiated lucrative deals for clients such as Tennessee Titans running back Eddie George (l), recently was awarded the Agent of the Year Award at the Black Sports Agents Association Sports Awards in Las Vegas. Smith is the president and founder of the internationally recognized sports and entertainment firm All Pro Sports & Entertainment, Inc. Smith negotiated record-setting deals for George that made him the highest-paid running back in the NFL (6 years, \$42 million) and Jerome Bettis' 6-year, \$30 million contract extension with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Smith's most recent signing was Trevor Pryce's 7-year, \$60 million deal with the Denver Broncos, which made him the highest-paid defensive player in NFL history.

▶ **MOSS' MILLION-DOLLAR DEAL:**

Minnesota Vikings' Randy Moss recently signed a contract extension that, based on annual averages, makes him the highest-paid Black player in the NFL and the third-richest player overall (behind quarterbacks Drew Bledsoe and Brett Favre). The Vikings' star wide receiver, who didn't sign earlier with the team, will get \$75 million over 8 years, including an \$18 million signing bonus. "I've been planning on this day for a long time," the three-year veteran said. "Security for me and my family is now here. I would like to give thanks to God for making my talent and my name stand out, and being able to



keep me healthy so that I could be in this position." Moss, 24, one of the premier players in the league, had 226 catches, 4,163 yards and 43 touchdowns in his three seasons, the best for any wide receiver over that period in NFL history.



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▲ Roy Jones, Jr. dons his WBC/IBF/WBA light heavyweight championship belts after he defeated Julio Gonzalez by a 12-round, unanimous decision in Los Angeles.

Roy Jones Successfully Defends Championship Titles

Roy Jones, Jr. recently defended his light-heavyweight championship to retain his WBC, IBF and WBA titles.

Jones, arguably one of the best pound-for-pound fighters around, dominated Julio Gonzalez (27-1) of Orange County, CA, before a crowd of 20,409 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The 32-year-old champion (45-1) from Pensacola, FL, won by a unanimous, 12-round decision after he dropped Gonzalez three times.

"I gave myself a 10," Jones said of his effort.

It made no difference that Gonzalez, at 6-foot-2, is 3 inches taller than Jones and had a 5-inch reach advantage. However, Jones, who never appeared hurt or in any danger, praised Gonzalez for putting up a tough fight.

"He was strong and he had heart," Jones said about his opponent. "My plan was to work the body, wear him down. I had too much respect to go for the quick knockout."

Midway through the first round, Jones dropped his challenger with a short left to the jaw. Jones knocked Gonzalez down again with another left in the opening seconds of the fifth round.

At one point late in the sixth, Jones smiled when Gonzalez landed a fierce blow to his face that didn't stumble the champ at all.

Over the next few rounds, each landed a punch here and there until the final round when Jones used his quickness and threw a right hand, making Gonzalez connect with the canvas for the third time.

Jones earned \$1.5 million and his company, Square Ring, Inc., also was paid \$1.5 million. Gonzalez earned \$500,000.

■ *Washington Redskins star defender Deion Sanders recently retired from the NFL. The double-pro athlete, whose baseball career is uncertain, is a seven-time Pro Bowl performer and regarded as one of the finest cornerbacks of all time.*



Deion Sanders Announces Retirement From Football

Seven-time Pro Bowl corner back Deion Sanders recently announced his retirement from the NFL.

The decision to leave football came less than one full day after Sanders cleaned out his locker with the Syracuse SkyChiefs, the Triple-A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. Thus leaving his baseball future uncertain as well.

Sanders, who will be 34 on August 9, informed the Washington Redskins he was not returning to the NFL through his agent Eugene Parker.

"In my discussions with [Parker], it was evident from his comments that Deion Sanders did not want to play football," coach Marty Schottenheimer said.

"With that understanding, both parties have reached a mutually beneficial agreement. Deion Sanders will retire as a National Football League player, and a financial agreement has been reached."

Sanders and the Redskins agreed on a settlement that will allow him to keep all but \$500,000 of the \$8 million signing bonus he received as part of the seven-year, \$56 million contract that he signed with the team last sum-

mer.

He had already received \$5.5 million of the bonus, and was due another \$2.5 million this year. The two sides agreed to delay that payment until next March, with Sanders now set to get \$2 million. The double-pro athlete will still count as \$5.2 million against the cap next year.

Combining flair with talent through his whole career, Sanders earned the nickname Prime Time, and remains the only person to play in both the World Series and the Super Bowl.

Sanders, who in his return with the Cincinnati Reds went 3-for-3 on May 1 in his first major-league game since 1997, is one of the few players who played on offense and defense in the NFL. The quick, talented and flamboyant Sanders holds the NFL record with 18 touchdowns on returns. The defender also has made 48 career interceptions, including eight returned for TDs.

CENSUS

DIED: Maceo Anderson, 90, a tap dancer and founding member of the legendary tap-dancing group the Four Step Brothers, in Los Angeles... **Samuel G. Farley**, 80, stepfather of famed singers, sisters Freda Payne and Scherrie Payne, in Detroit... **Robert Oliver Lowery**, 85, New York's first Black fire commissioner and the first Black to head the fire department of a major American city, in Manhattan.

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JET **top20** ALBUMS



■ ALICIA KEYS



■ LUTHER VANDROSS

1. SONGS IN A MINOR

Alicia Keys (J)

2. LUTHER VANDROSS

Luther Vandross (J)

3. BROKEN SILENCE

Foxy Brown (Def Jam)

4. THE REASON

Beanie Sigel (Roc A Fella)

5. SURVIVOR

Destiny's Child (Columbia)

6. JAGGED LITTLE THRILL

Jagged Edge (So So Def)

7. WHO IS JILL SCOTT?

Jill Scott (Hidden Beach)

8. DEVIL'S NIGHT

D-12 (Interscope)

9. THE SAGA CONTINUES

P. Diddy & The Bad Boy Family (Bad Boy)

10. RETURN OF DRAGON

Sisqo (Def Soul)

11. GHETTO LOVE

Jaheim (Divine Mill)

12. FREE CITY

St. Lunatics (Universal)

13. LOVE SESSIONS

Silk (Elektra)

14. THE LIFE

Ginuwine (Epic)

15. AALIYAH

Aaliyah (Blackground)

16. BORN TO DO IT

Craig David (Atlantic)

17. MISS E...SO ADDICTIVE

Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott
(The Gold Mind)

18. LIL' ROMEO

Lil' Romeo (Priority)

19. 9 LIVES

AZ (Motown)

20. BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Lil' Mo (EastWest)



NEW SINGER
Alicia Keys
SITTING PRETTY
WITH SMASH
DEBUT ALBUM

**'Songs In
A Minor'**

▲ New singer Alicia Keys has been mesmerizing music lovers with her debut album *Songs in A Minor*.

One listen to new singer Alicia Keys and you're hooked. Add a dash of classical piano, a pinch of blues and a sprinkle of R&B and you've captured the essence of the talented artist who's sitting pretty as one of music's fastest-rising stars.

The 20-year-old singer-songwriter is living up to all of the hype surrounding her smash debut album, *Songs in A Minor*, which has remained No. 1 on music charts for at least five weeks since it was released a couple of

months ago.

She wrote, arranged and played piano on all of the songs on the album. Her renditions of Prince's *How Come You Don't Call Me?* and Brian McKnight's *Never Felt This Way*, one of the first songs she put on her demo, were the only songs she didn't write. She also served as a co-executive producer on the album.

When her first single, *Fallin'*, hit music airwaves, fans immediately fell in love with the biracial beauty with the cornrows and husky voice. On the ballad, Keys tickles the ivories by weaving in a portion of Beethoven's *Fur Elise* before cascading into a bluesy, soul-stirring tale about a woman riding an emotional roller coaster of love.

The tune has become so popular that it's now being used in commercials for some of TV's best-loved soap

operas.

"Isn't it crazy? I think it's crazy," she says to JET about the song's impact. "In fact it kind of sounds like a soap opera song. I was thinking, 'Hey, wait a minute!'"

A classically trained pianist who studied the very disciplined Suzuki method for 12 years, Keys has ushered in a marriage between classical and soul music.

"I am truly blessed that people are really into it. But I really didn't know that I was doing it," she admits. "It was kind of something that comes natural to me, studying classical for so long and having a love of soul and R&B music. It's kind of something that fused together by itself. I think people are always ready for some-

thing different."

Ready or not, Keys has been striking all the right chords with her impressive debut album. Known for her trademark cornrows, the powerhouse vocalist says some people are a bit surprised when they see her.

"People who don't know me ask me if I'm an MC," she chuckles. "They always ask me, 'Do you rhyme?' I say, 'Well, I could rhyme if I wanted to.' They get a kick out of it. I think classical music has a notorious reputation for being a little stuffy, and I think this just kind of brings it down to earth."

Lauded by fans, music critics and industry bigwigs alike, Keys has put a spell on virtually everyone who hears her perform.

During a recent appearance on "Oprah" where she shared the stage along with a few of music's other rising new women singers, including Jill Scott and India.Arie, Keys wowed the audience. She even had talk show giant Oprah Winfrey gushing and singing along while listening to her fiery performance.

A later appearance on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" had the

◀ *A classically trained pianist, Keys merges classical and R&B music when she performs. "I don't classify my music because that limits it," she says.*





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George Burns

▲ *Keys was among those selected as music's hottest rising stars when she appeared on "Oprah." Joining Keys were (l-r) Yolanda Adams, Mary Mary (Erica and Tina Atkins), India Arie and Jill Scott. Reveals Keys, "That was an unforgettable experience to be around so many artists who I admire and are truly artists. The vibe in there was so nice."*

same affect. But this time the show's celebrated host, Jay Leno, couldn't wait to hear her perform during the actual taping of the show. He came to watch her perform—donning jeans and sneakers—during the sound check!

Humbled by all of the hoopla surrounding her, Keys doesn't quite see herself as a "star." At least not yet. "I wonder, do [fans] do that for everybody? That's what I wondered at first," she says. "But, I think it's definitely wonderful for them to be so gracious. That is very nice."

Fans will be happy to know that they will be able to see her perform live when she embarks upon her first major tour as the opening act for Maxwell. The tour recently started.

Success appears to have taken hold of Keys overnight. She knows that's not exactly the case.

"This is something I have been working at for a long time and through a lot of different situations. Now that it's finally tangible, it's something I really and truly appreciate."

While still in high school at the prestigious Professional Performance Arts School in New York, where she majored in choir, Keys landed a record deal with Columbia Records. But by the time she graduated at 16, she had a record deal in one hand and an acceptance letter from Columbia University in the other. She made an attempt to do both for a short while, but the pressures of demanding stud-

ies and late-night studio sessions proved to be too much for the teen. She left college because things were happening for her as a musician.

Under the guidance of hip-hop music mogul Jermaine Dupri, in 1996 Keys performed *The Little Drummer Girl* on So So Def's Christmas album. A year later she did a song for the *Men In Black* soundtrack, *Dah Dee Dah (Sexy Thing)*.

"I have always been working toward this. When it was finally looking like it was jumping off, I was like I see an opportunity to really do this...I think school is important and I want to definitely go back even if I have to do an Internet college course."

Creative differences eventually made her part ways with Columbia

▼ Success has been sweet for Keys. She's eager about doing her first major tour as the opening act for Maxwell. The tour will go until October. "We kind of fit together in a nice way," she says of the sexy headliner.

Records. Then she hooked up with Clive Davis at Arista Records in 1998 and did the song *Rock Wit You* with Isaac Hayes for the *Shaft* soundtrack. A short while later, when Davis left Arista to form J Records, Keys followed Davis to the new label.

"He didn't try to divert me to something else. I want to be who I am. I don't want to be made into what somebody else thinks I should be."

Keys has always had a strong sense of self and will quickly point that out. As the daughter of an Italian-Scottish mother and a Black father, she grew up in a single-parent home headed by her mother, a paralegal secretary.

Being biracial was never an issue for Keys, she says. "I was never con-



fused or had issues. I grew up in New York. There's a little bit of everybody there. It really doesn't matter. It was never an issue because I accepted and loved both sides. I claim both sides."

Growing up in the rough Hell's Kitchen district of New York, she shared a one-bedroom apartment in an artists' housing complex with her mother.

"I had my share of things that influenced me negatively. I think we all do, and it helps us to decide whether we want to do that or maybe not do that again. I really credit a lot to my mother. She's very supportive and a strong woman. She showed me how to be a strong woman and how to follow through with what you start. That helped me a lot," explains Keys, who says a piano they were given was used as a divider between her bed-

room and the living room in their tiny apartment.

The album's next single, *A Woman's Worth*, showcases how passionate Keys is about the strength of women. The inspiration for the tune came during a Thanksgiving family dinner.

"I was watching TV when a L'Oreal commercial came on. At the end it said, 'Because I'm worth it.' I said, 'Oh, my goodness! Damn, I'm worth it! That's hot!' Time passed and I played it on the piano and recorded it. I started thinking how important it is to feel like you're worth it. If you know you're worth it, you won't let people treat you any which way. In a relationship you are worth the special things—not just monetarily, but sweet little things. As a woman, you're worth it."

—MARGENA A. CHRISTIAN

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movies to see

RAT RACE Paramount Pictures Rated (PG-13)



◀ *Cuba Gooding Jr. stars as Owen Templeton in Rat Race.*

first one there keeps it all. The racers travel by anything that moves, and they cheat, lie and sabotage one another. Starring **Whoopi Goldberg, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Rowan Atkinson, John Cleese, Seth Green, Jon Lovitz, Breckin Meyer,**

Kathy Najimy, Amy Smart and Lanai Chapman.

—SYLVIA P. FLANAGAN

A wild comedy about Las Vegas casino tycoon Donald Sinclair, who is determined to keep his wealthiest high-rollers happy, so he concocts a new, quasi-legal sporting event for them to bet on: a human "rat race." The Rat Racers are six ordinary people, selected at random. Sinclair has put six special minted gold coins in six different slot machines. Anyone who wins a coin is invited to join the race. The odds of winning are one in six. The "cheese" is \$2 million in cash in a duffel bag, in a locker, in Silver City, New Mexico—700 miles away. The



▶ *Whoopi Goldberg stars as Vera Baker and John Cleese stars as Donald St. Claire in Paramount Pictures' Rat Race.*

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■ USHER



■ ALICIA KEYS

1. U REMIND ME

Usher (Arista)

2. FALLIN'

Alicia Keys (J)

3. THERE SHE GOES

Babyface (Arista)

4. PEACHES & CREAM

112 (Bad Boy)

5. SHE'S ALL I GOT

Jimmy Cozier (J)

6. FIESTA

R. Kelly Featuring Jay-Z (Jive)

7. FILL ME IN

Craig David (Atlantic)

8. TAKE YOU OUT

Luther Vandross (J)

9. SUPERWOMAN

Lil' Mo (EastWest)

10. MUSIC

Erick Sermon Featuring Marvin Gaye (Def Squad)

11. BOOTYLICIOUS

Destiny's Child (Columbia)

12. LOVER BOY

Mariah Carey (Virgin)

13. LET ME BLOW YA MIND

Eve (Ruff Ryders)

14. CONTAGIOUS

The Isley Brothers Featuring Ronald Isley (DreamWorks)

15. HEARD IT ALL BEFORE

Sunshine Anderson (Soulife)

16. JUST IN CASE

Jaheim (Divine Mill)

17. HIT 'EM UP

Blu Cantrell (Arista)

18. SO FRESH, SO CLEAN

OutKast (LaFace)

19. I LIKE THEM GIRLS

Tyrese (RCA)

20. BROWN SKIN

India.Arie (Motown)



television



'The Job'

Bill Nunn stars in this new comedy series about a jaded New York City detective whose unconventional approach to his job makes him a great cop in "The Job," (Wednesday, August 15 at 9:30 p.m., ET) on ABC. Others scheduled to appear this week include:

Gary Dourdan on "CSI," (Thursday, August 9 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Eriq LaSalle/Michael Michele on "ER," (Thursday, August 9 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Ice-T/Michelle Hurd on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," (Friday, August 10 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Roger Aaron Brown/John Amos/Lynne Thigpen/Sean Patrick Thomas on "The District," (Saturday, August 11 at 9 & 10 p.m., ET) on CBS.

LisaGay Hamilton/Steve Harris on "The Practice," (Sunday, August 12 at 10 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Salli Richardson on "Family Law," (Monday, August 13 at 10 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Coby Bell/Michael Beach on "Third Watch," (Monday, August 13 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Michael Boatman on "Spin City," (Tuesday, August 14 at 9:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Richard T. Jones on "Judging Amy," (Tuesday, August 14 at 10 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Wayne Brady on "The Wayne Brady Show," (Wednesday, August 15 at 8:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Dulé Hill on "The West Wing," (Wednesday, August 15 at 9 p.m., ET) on NBC.



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